

TRASH FISH ELIMINATED FROM LAKE

A famous conservationist once said our waters should be five times as productive per acre as our land. One of the purposes of the fish and game department's lake management program is to increase the capacity of waters to support game fish.

Solomen and Antelope lakes in northern Idaho are typical examples of lake rehabilitation. They once afforded good trout fishing. Some well-meaning sportsmen thought they would be excellent bass water, so bass were planted and drove the trout and themselves nearly to extinction.

Under supervision of fisheries biologist Tim Vaughn, assistant biologist Don Andriano and conservation officer Lester Gissel, the first step in rehabilitating the lakes was taken in August. A group of cooperating sportsmen aided in an eradication program, designed to rid the lakes of trash fish and stunted game fish. A rotenone base powder was towed in sacks around the lakes and gradually diffused throughout the water. The substance is harmless to humans or livestock, but is highly toxic to the respiratory system of creatures that breathe through gills.

After a sufficient period for the lake to have cleaned itself of all eradicated fish, plantings of game fish will be made. Fishing pressure is expected to keep the population level commensurate with available food supplies.

Several other lakes are on the rehabilitation schedule. Thorough studies are made before any eradication program is started. To date only small bodies of water have been treated, as the toxin is expensive and dissolves effectively only in shallow water.

Birch Creek, in Lemhi and Clark counties, yielded some fine catches of trout this season, a creel census revealed. The 51 fishermen checked had a total of 393 rainbow and 22 eastern brook. A one-day check of Williams Lake showed that 77 fishermen caught a total of 506 pounds of trout.



Fisheries Biologist Tim Vaughn, left, ties a sack of rotenone base fish eradicator as Elmer Shields, Clarks Fork, assists. The sack was towed around by the motor-driven raft, which dispersed the eradicator evenly throughout the water. Trash fish were completely eliminated from Antelope Lake in this operation, part of the lake rehabilitation program. (F&G Photo)

Furbearers Dropped to New Homes in Wilderness Areas

More Idaho beaver will again become eligible for membership in the famed "Caterpillar Club" this season, as the busy engineers descend into the primitive area via the parachute route.

Transporting and dropping pairs of beaver into the remote sections of the state by plane was started last year. The success of this operation called for a repeat performance with new actors and actresses occupying the ventilated boxes. The air commuting method combines several favorable factors. The operation costs are less than by pack string and delivery is much more rapid. This in turn results in easier handling of the beaver and release of healthy, strong animals.

The beaver are supplied for the transplanting on a voluntary basis by the regular beaver caretaker trappers in other sections of the state. They are usually trapped from complaint areas, and placed in areas where they may propagate and aid conservation of water supplies.

The walking fur coats are placed in wooden, ventilated boxes equipped

with automatic release devices that open when the container reaches the ground. This equipment was designed by Conservation Officer Elmo Heter of McCall last year.

Fur Supervisor John W. Smith reports that other furbearers of Idaho are not being neglected. Muskrats are being livetrapped and transplanted under the Game Department policy of conservation and propagation. Marten were moved to new homes last year, and the program calls for additional numbers to experience a change of scenery and diet this year.

Swans Switch States

Eight pairs of trumpeter swans have set up housekeeping on Island Park reservoir in eastern Idaho, Conservation Officer Stan Frederickson reports. The trumpeters, remnant of a once plentiful population of the beautiful big birds, deserted their usual nesting place in the Red Rock federal refuge in Montana, and came to Idaho. The birds have hatched several cygnets.

Mourning Dove Will Be Nimrod's Target During September Season

Idaho will have a mourning dove season this year in certain areas of the state from September 1 to September 10.

The mourning dove holds a very rare position among birds that are hunted with a scattergun. They are the only birds that breed in each state of the United States and Canada. They migrate across both of the international borders in Canada and Mexico, and are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaties between the United States and Great Britain in 1916, and United States and Mexico in 1937.

The western species of mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*), commonly breeds in the Great Plains area, Rocky Mountain area, and Pacific Coast range, and the majority migrate south into the southern states of California, Arizona and New Mexico. Large numbers of bands have been recovered from points south into Mexico.

The doves lay but two eggs to a setting by multi-brooding, that is, a single pair may produce several broods each season. In the northern part of their range two broods are common and in the southern part records have been made of five or six. The construction of the nest, the incubation and the caring for the young requires about a month's time. During the incubation period both the male and the female help incubate the eggs.

The young birds are fed by both parents by regurgitation of "pigeon's milk," a secretion produced in the crops of the parents. The young birds generally leave the nest when they are 11 or 12 days of age.

Mourning dove hunting is considered by many hunters to be one of the sportiest kinds of wing shooting.

The State of Idaho has a large population of mourning doves scattered throughout most regions of the state. There is a general migration from the areas north of Idaho, through Idaho, and also from Idaho starting around the 15th of August and generally by the 1st of September our large concentration of mourning doves are moving south to their winter area.

The mourning dove, in addition to being an excellent game bird, is also a gastronomic delight when prepared



The ubiquitous mourning dove.

as breast of mourning dove on toast, or smothered dove. Although the mourning dove is a considerably smaller game bird than the grouse or pheasant, it is quite simple to prepare. An old-time cook book gave the following recipe for smothered dove:

Roll game in salted and peppered flour. Drop in dutch oven or deep iron skillet, containing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of butter. Brown on all sides. Cover tightly and let simmer over open flame until meat is tender. Then make gravy with flour. More salt will be needed.

Northern Idaho Man Tells of Early Planting

A long-time north Idaho sportsman took friendly exception to a recent Wildlife Review article which stated that Bear Lake was the only Idaho water to be planted with mackinaw trout.

Dr. Floyd G. Wendle, who has hunted and fished in north Idaho for many years, reported that in 1922 mackinaws were planted in Pend d'Oreille Lake, under the direction of Otto Jones, then state game warden, and Ben Garrison, hatchery superintendent.

The Sandpoint physician reported that he planted mackinaws at the mouth of the Clarksfork River, and other plantings were made near Hope. Several good catches were made in succeeding years, Dr. Wendle reports. No one knows why the mackinaws left or where they went, but no catches have been reported in recent years.

Ye editors thank Dr. Wendle for his letter, and invite other sportsmen who have interesting items on the past history of fish and game in Idaho to drop us a line.

Bombers scored a direct hit on a conservation target in Wisconsin. Bombs were dropped in swampy areas to create water holes for moose. The swamps were drying out and the moose could find no waterholes in which to escape from insect swarms.

THE GAME WARDEN'S LAMENT

By GILBERT RUSSELL BRACKETT

*If the game warden asks to see your license, he's insulting.
If he takes your word for having one, he's corrupt.
If he arrests a violator, he's showing how rough he can be.
If he gives the culprit another chance, he's showing favoritism.
If he labors day and night to enforce the law, he's a tyrant.
If he relaxes at all, he's a shirker and a crook.
If he talks fish and game conservation, he's maudlin.
If he keeps quiet, he's not interested in his work.
If he accepts suggestions or advice, he's incompetent.
If he works out problems for himself, he's a know-all.
If he acts like a gentleman, he's too easy.
If he acts firm, he's unfair and a rascal.*

*Ashes to ashes,
Dust to dust,
If the sportsmen don't do it,
The game warden must!*